



Littlefield Letters



Volume 91

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Number 10

OCTOBER MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday
10 October 1991
time: 6:15 p.m.
Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

Come one, come all. This month's featured speaker will be Lt. Commander Glenn Hadeler who will speak on the famous 8th Texas Cavalry, Terry's Texas Rangers. Glenn is an active member of the Rangers reenactment group and served with distinction in the planning of the Palmito Ranch reenactment. The Long Term Goals Comm. has completed their report and will present it at the meeting. Come and help decide on the new, updated face of Camp #59 as we get ready to enter 1992 and beyond.

CLAIBORNE KYLE LOG CABIN

SCV members of Camp #59 participated in a celebration at this massive log house above the Blanco River in Kyle on Saturday, 28 September 1991. Five members of this family served the Confederacy, and they all returned. One, Ferguson Kyle, was a Captain in Terry's Texas Rangers.

Members of Terry's Rangers today made a special appearance. Attending from the Camp were Kerry Hellums, Dan Kuykendall, Glenn Hadeler, and David Couch. Todd and Greg Hector set up an information booth on the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Greg played his banjo and sang Southern songs.



TEXANS
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IN MEMORIAM

SAM G. COOK
1908-1991

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the death of one of our long-time and faithful members. Sam Cook answered the final roll of Confederates on Thursday, 19 September 1991. Sam was born 28 September 1908 in Nacogdoches moving to Austin in 1919. He was an Austin High graduate, class of 1926 and second in his class. He graduated from UT in 1932 with a BBA. He and our special lady, Belle, were married on 14 August 1932. He had been an entrepreneur in the printing business, a gentleman farmer, and a purchaser for the State Board of Control. He wrote a history of the Austin Kiwanis Club of which he was a member. Besides being a member of the SCV, he was a member of the SAR and an honorary member of the Texas Division of the UDC.

Funeral services were held Saturday, September 21st and burial was in Austin Memorial Park. The Stars and Bars was displayed and the battleflag draped the casket. Members of the camp served as uniformed pallbearers and Greg Hector acted as Chaplain and conducted a graveside service based on old Confederate ritual.

Sam had quite a sense of humor and had a comeback for everything. His good nature, tireless work on behalf of Confederate causes, and humor will certainly be missed. Our prayers of concern go out to his wife, Belle, and nephew, Compatriot Allen Matetzschk.

HERITAGE VIOLATION

Chief Scout Exec. Ben Love made a one-man executive decision to drop the Confederate flag from its insignias in the South. It had been used in ceremonies and on badges and other memorabilia across the South and was prominently displayed at annual meetings of the Dixie Fellowship attended by honor scouts from South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. This action was in response to ONE person who felt the use of our flag discouraged blacks from participating in the Boy Scouts. The detractor said the flag has nothing to do with Southern culture!

You, as SCV'ers, are being asked to write letters on your business, professional, or personal stationery relating your displeasure at this decision. If you were a Scout, do not fail to mention this fact. Include your thoughts on how this action will impact future support for the Scout program. Probably many of us were scouts, and we need to make our feelings known!

Mr. Ben H. Love
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DON'T FURL THE FLAG!

(from Charleston News and Courier, April 1979, written by black journalist, W. Earl Douglas, from Rebel Rouser, Dallas)

I cannot be convinced that Southern independence meant only the perpetuation of slavery, because history of the truthful kind tells me otherwise. The Constitution of the Provisional Government of the Confederacy forbade the importation of slaves. How then was slavery the motivating force behind the thrust for Southern independence? How did black and white slave-owners exist side by side in this region, which was painted by abolitionists as one of black and white hostility? Why were there always more free Negroes in the slave South than in the so-called free North of the abolitionists? Such questions remain unanswered....Whites and blacks were partners in the destiny of the South and not (as the Uncle Tom's Cabin mentality of the abolitionists would have had us believe) only as master and slave....The real tragedy of the Confederate battle flag is that Southerners, white and black, have permitted it to be driven between them like a wedge, separating them from a common goal. The racism so evident in this controversy is not the flying of the flag but that we've permitted it to be designated as pro-white and anti-black. I am reminded that it was my grandfather and grandmother who kept the home fires burning while the Confederacy waged its war. Which is why I cannot view loyalty to the South or the desire for independence as being monopolized by either race....If

hate had been the prevailing emotion between the races, then it is a safe bet that the Confederacy would never have been born. Fortunately, there was love, understanding, and compassion. And the two greatest lies ever perpetuated by history are that the South instigated the war and that it was fought by the North for the purpose of freeing the slaves. The Negro was merely used as the excuse for that war, while the real reason for it is reflected in every area of our lives where the tentacles of government form the bars of a new slavery. No! don't furl that Confederate battle flag. Let it wave all across the South to remind Americans that there exists here a yearning for liberty, freedom, and independence that will not be denied. Let it fly as a testimonial to real men and real women who would rather work and fight than shed tears and beg for government charity. Finally, let it act as a cohesive force, drawing all Southerners together in the cause of freedom.

NPS NEW SERVICE

The National Park Service is compiling a directory of the soldiers who participated in the WBTS. This computerized list will be available in visitor centers at battlefields. It is scheduled to be tested this fall at Shiloh and Sharpsburg. The 28 sites targeted will be able to provide names, states, regiments and information on where the regiments fought, soldiers' ranks and information on whether they wore the blue or the gray.

BLACK PROF SPEAKS ON CSA
(courtesy Confederate Gazette,
Temple)

The featured speaker at Confederate Memorial Day services at Arlington Cemetery was Dr. Edward C. Smith, American University in D.C. Being a black professor, he spoke on black contributions to the Confederacy. He remarked that much is made of black Union soldiers, but not much is said of the black Confederate soldier. Their contributions to the CSA are today mostly ignored for political reasons.

"This is the case, because to admit blacks actually fought for a cause which in the minds of many Americans now stands exclusively for slavery and

oppression would be unacceptable with only modern politics and not with the realities of the historical record." He continued the WBTS was "not a contest between the good (North) and the evil (South), but a complex territorial and cultural war fought primarily over the issue of Southern independence." The 1914 monument before which he was standing includes a black bearing arms against the Federals. Blacks, he said, realized that they would be no better off in the North. Dr. Smith is working on a book that will detail black Confederate contributions. He currently serves as Dean of Minority Affairs at American University.

- THE LITTLEFIELD LETTERS -

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Gregory T. Hector, Editor

1991
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